Segregation & Packaging of Healthcare Risk & Non-Risk Waste

RISK WASTE

YELLOW BAG

- All blood-stained items and all items soiled with body fluids assessed as infectious
- Suction catheters & tubing
- Incontinence waste from known or suspected enteric infections

*** NO SHARPS OR FREE LIQUIDS**

YELLOW SHARPS BIN (with blue or red lid)

- Needles, Syringes & Scalpels
- Contaminated slides & glass
- Sharps tips of clear IV giving sets
- Blood stained glass
- Stitch cutters
- Guide wires/trocars
- Razors

*** NO FREE LIQUIDS**

YELLOW 30/60 LITRE RIGID BIN (with yellow lid)

- Blood administration sets (never disconnect line from bag)
- Contained blood and body fluids
- Non-cultured laboratory waste (including autoclaved microbiological cultures)
- Disposable suction liners
- Redivac drains (ensure drain closure sealed)
- Sputum containers
- Chest drains

*** NO SHARPS OR FREE LIQUIDS**

RISK WASTE

YELLOW 30/60 LITRE RIGID BIN (with purple lid)

- Cytotoxic drugs including infusion lines, left over drug preparations and personal protective equipment used.
- Small quantities of residual medicines or pharmaceuticals left over after administration to patients.

*** NO SHARPS OR FREE LIQUIDS**

YELLOW SHARPS BIN (with purple lid)

- Contaminated cytotoxic sharps, needles, syringes, sharp instructions and broken glass

*** NO FREE LIQUIDS**

YELLOW RIGID BIN (with black lid)

- Non-autoclaved microbiological cultures
- Large / recognisable anatomical body parts
- Placentas with additional leak proof containment
- Large solid metal objects and instruments

*** NO SHARPS OR FREE LIQUIDS**

NON-RISK WASTE

CLEAR BAG

- Incontinence wear (from non-infectious patients)
- Oxygen face masks
- Empty urinary drainage and empty stoma drainage bags
- Clear tubing (e.g. oxygen, urinary catheters, ventilator, naso gastric, IV lines with tips removed)
- Enteral feeding equipment
- Non contaminated gloves, aprons and masks
- Empty continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis (CAPD) bags
- All other household non-risk, non-recyclable waste

*** NO SHARPS OR LIQUIDS**

RECYCLABLE WASTE

GREEN BAG

- Mixed Dry Recyclables - Paper, Cardboard, Tetra Packs, Plastic Packaging / Wrappings, Tins/Cans, Plastic Bottles

*** NO SHARPS OR LIQUIDS**

PLEASE NOTE:

1) Do not use waste bags for sharp or breakable items or for liquids
2) Close healthcare risk waste bags using "swan neck" when 2/3 full
3) Sign and seal sharps bins correctly when 3/4 full or at manufacturers fill line
4) Label all healthcare risk waste appropriately at point of generation
5) Apply traceability tags to all healthcare risk waste at point of generation
6) Use long sharps bins for large trocars, knives, stapling guns etc.
7) For all 30/60 litre rigid bins, add absorbent material or gelling agent in sufficient quantities to hold the fluid and prevent leakage.
8) For further details on healthcare risk waste, please refer to www.dohc.ie/publications

An Roinn Sláinte
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